IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 8-21 have been amended as follows:

A typical strap fastener includes a base, a reel ~~pivotally put~~ **pivotal** on the base, a lever pivotally installed on the reel, two ratchet wheels secured to the reel, a first detent movably installed on the base for engagement with the ratchet wheels and a second detent movably installed on the lever for engagement with the ratchet wheels. In use, a first strap or a first end of a strap is tied to the base. A second strap or a second end of the strap is wound on the reel. The lever is pivoted relative to the base in order to perform a one-way rotation of the reel through cooperation of the detents with the ratchet wheels. The reel winds the first strap or the first end of the strap so as to exert a tensile force on the straps or the strap. The tensile force may however be too large for the straps or the strap to sustain. In such a case, the straps or the strap may be fractured. When that happens, cargo will get loose and become vulnerable to ~~damages~~ **damage**. What is worse is that the loose cargo may ~~cause~~ hurt people.

Page 1, lines 23 and 24 have been amended as follows:

The present invention is therefore intended to obviate or at least alleviate the problems encountered in **the** prior art.

Page 2, lines 18-20 have been amended as follows:

Other ~~objects~~ **objectives**, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the attached drawings.

Page 3, lines 1-7 have been amended as follows:

Figure 1 is a side view of a truck on which cargo is held by ~~means of~~ straps and strap fastener sets according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the strap fastener sets shown in Figure 1, ~~showing the strap fastener set to include~~ **including** a strap fastener and a gauge.

Page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 2 have been amended as follows:

Figure 1 shows a truck 100 on which cargo 101 is held by ~~means of~~ three pairs of straps 3 and three strap fastener sets according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Each strap 3 is tied with a hook 4 for hooking **to** the truck 100. Each strap fastener set includes a strap fastener 1 connected with one strap 3 of **[[a]] the** pair **of straps 3** and a gauge 2 tied with the other strap 3 of that pair **of straps 3**. The following description will be focused on only one strap fastener set and only one pair of straps 3.

Page 4, lines 4-13 have been amended as follows:

Referring to Figure 2, the strap fastener 1 includes a base 10, a reel 30 pivotally **[[put]] mounted** on the base 10, a lever 20 pivotally installed on the reel 30, two ratchet wheels 31 secured to the reel 30, a first detent 11 movably installed on the base 10 for engagement with the ratchet wheels 31 and a second detent 21 movably installed on the lever 20 for engagement with the ratchet wheels 31. In use, the first strap 3 is wound on the reel 30. The lever 20 is pivoted relative to the base 10 so as to provide a one-way rotation of the reel 30 through cooperation of the detents 11 and 21 with the ratchet wheels 31. The reel 30 winds the first strap 3. Being conventional, the strap fastener 1 will not be described in detail.

Page 4, line 19 through page 5, line 1 have been amended as follows:

A cap 45 is secured to the cylinder 43 without blocking the window 52. The cap 45 includes a cylinder 56 and an annular flange 58 **defining a ring** formed on an internal side of the cylinder 56. The cylinder 56 of the cap 45 may be fit in the cylinder 43. Alternatively, the cylinder 56 of the cap 45 may be secured to the cylinder 43 by welding. In a simplified embodiment, the cap 45 and the cylinder 43 are merged. In other words, the cap 45 is saved while an annular flange such as the annular flange 58 of the cap 45 is formed on an internal side of the cylinder 43.

Page 5, lines 13-15 have been amended as follows:

A ring 44 is secured to the cylinder 43 by ~~means of~~ screwing. A bolt 62 is secured to the ring 44. In a simplified embodiment, the ring 44 and the bolt 62 are made as one.

Page 5, line through page 6, line 2 have been amended as follows:

The rod 46 of the gauge 2 is connected with the base 10 of the strap fastener 1 by ~~means of~~ a first joint 41. The bolt 62 of the gauge 2 is connected with the second strap 3 by ~~means of~~ a second joint 42. The first joint 41 includes a middle section and two terminal sections extending from the middle section. **The first end of the rod 46 passes through the middle section of the first joint 41 and threadably receives a nut 64.** A bolt 12 is driven into the terminal sections of the first joint 41 through two lateral sections of the base 10, thus pivotally connecting the first joint 41 with the base 10.

Page 6, lines 4-6 have been amended as follows:

The second joint 42 includes a middle section and two terminal sections extending from the middle section. **The bolt 62 passes through the middle section of the second joint 42 and threadably receives a nut 66.** Into the terminal sections of the second joint 42 is driven a bolt **[[64]]** **68** to which the second belt 3 is secured.